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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016, at 2 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Spirit of God, who brought creation out of the void, light from darkness, and order from chaos, may Your Name be praised. Inspire our Senators. Use their daily experiences of joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, victory and defeat for Your glory. Remind them that no evil can stop the unfolding of Your purposes and providence, as You work through them to bring harmony where there is discord. May they find joy in Your faithfulness.

Lord, lead them with Your merciful hands as You continue to provide for their needs. Protect them and their loved ones with the shield of Your love.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER VERNON ALSTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we were very saddened to hear of the loss of U.S. Capitol police officer Vernon Alston this past weekend.

Officer Alston served on the force for nearly two decades, working to protect all of us. Capitol police chief Kim Dine said that his passing, at the age of 44, was "truly a tragic loss for the Alston family and for the United States Capitol Police, which in fact is actually one and the same."

I know his fellow officers would agree. I know his service and dedication will be remembered by all who knew him. I know our colleagues will join me in holding his family in our thoughts.

ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Energy Policy Modernization Act is the result of months of hard work across the aisle. It passed committee with overwhelming bipartisan support. Congress hasn't passed legislation to update America's energy policies in nearly a decade. It is time we change that.

This broad, bipartisan energy bill offers a good way forward. It will help Americans produce more energy. It will help Americans pay less for energy. It will help Americans save energy. Not only will this bipartisan legislation help bring our energy policies in line with the demands of today, it will also position us to benefit from the oppor-

tunities of tomorrow. So let's work together and pass it.

The Senators from Alaska and Washington are proven bill managers. I ask our colleagues who have amendments they would like to be considered to bring them to the managers. Let's get going and pass this important legislation for our country.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER VERNON ALSTON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Officer Alston was an exemplary police officer.

If his death accomplishes nothing more than the fact that people need to be very aware of what happens during times of exertion—there were 18 people who died during the snowstorm from shoveling snow.

Officer Alston was a picture of fitness. He was a weight lifter. He took care of himself as well as anybody could. It is such a shame that he is no longer going to be able to take care of his family. As Senator MCCONNELL said, our hearts go out to him.

But, as I said, if nothing else, please, everyone, focus on this: Be very careful. There is still lots of snow out there, and if there is not snow now, there will be at some subsequent time. Please be very careful. You may think that you are powerful and you lift weights and all of that stuff, but be

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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